

Remarks

Claims 1-17 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-2, 7, 11-12, and 14-16 have been amended and claim 17 has been added. Reconsideration and allowance in view of the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Independent claims 1, 11, and 14 (and the claims dependent thereon) would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, as allegedly being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission accounting to a gap between the elements. Although Applicants believe that the claims as originally filed are complete and satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, Applicants have nonetheless amended the claims to further clarify the relationship between the claim features.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1-17 are allowable.

If the Examiner believes that any further discussion of the invention would be helpful, Applicants' representative is

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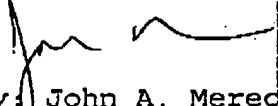
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available at (518) 449-0044, and earnestly solicits such discussion.

Respectfully submitted,


By: John A. Merecki
Reg. No. 35,812

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Hoffman, Warnick & D'Alessandro LLC
75 State Street, 14th Floor
Albany, New York 12207
518-449-0044
jmerecki@hwdpatents.com

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